

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 2, 4, 7, 8 and 10 and ADD new claims 11 through 20 in accordance with the following:

1. (original) A file device that records a file to storage means divided among a plurality of blocks, comprising:

block allocation means for allocating blocks to record the file in the storage means;
management information production means for producing management information designating blocks allocated by the block allocation means; and

storage control means for recording the files in the storage means after recording the management information produced by the management information production means in the storage means.

2. (currently amended) The file device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the storage control means attaches information indicating a preceding block and information indicating a size of data to be recorded in a block to the data recorded in the block and records same to the storage means.

3. (original) The file device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the storage control means updates the management information so that, when a data-unrecorded block occurs among the blocks allocated by the block allocation means when recording the file, the unrecorded block becomes an unused block.

4. (currently amended) The file device as claimed in claim 1, wherein:
the storage control means has storage sequence setting means for setting a storage sequence of data that makes up the file; and

the data that makes up the file being allocated among blocks to be recorded by the block allocation means based on the sequence set by the storage sequence setting means and recorded to the allocated blocks.

5. (original) The file device as claimed in claim 2, having file readout means, such that when information indicating the preceding block does not indicate the preceding block as a result of the block being accessed in sequence depending on the management information, the file being read out, and data being read out from the block, or when information indicating the size of the data recorded in the block is outside the actual block size range, the file readout means halts readout of the file and updates the management information so that subsequent blocks become unused blocks.

6. (original) A file access method that divides and records a file among a plurality of blocks, comprising:

- a block allocation step for allocating blocks to record the file;
- a management information production step for producing management information indicating blocks allocated in the block allocation step;
- a file storage step for recording the file; and
- a management information storage step for recording the management information produced in the management information production step.

7. (currently amended) The file access method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the file storage step attaches information indicating a preceding block and information indicating a size of data to be recorded in a block to each block that records the file, and records same.

8. (currently amended) The file access method as claimed in claim 6, having a management information updating step that updates the management information so that when an unrecorded block occurs, among the blocks allocated in the block allocation step when recording the file in the file storage step, the unrecorded block becomes an unused block.

9. (original) The file access method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the file storage step allocates blocks that are to record data that makes up the file in the block allocation step based on the previously-set storage sequence of the data that makes up the file and records to the allocated blocks.

10. (currently amended) The file access method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising ~~having~~ a file readout step such that when information indicating the preceding block does not indicate the preceding block as a result of the block being accessed in sequence depending on the management information, the file being read out, and data being read out from the block, or when information indicating the size of the data recorded in the block is actually outside the block size range, the file readout step halts readout of the file and updates the management information so that subsequent blocks become unused blocks.

11. (new) A file device that records a file to storage unit, divided among a plurality of blocks, comprising:

- a block allocation unit allocating blocks to record the file in the storage unit;
- a management information production unit producing management information designating blocks allocated by the block allocation unit; and
- a storage controller recording the files in the storage unit after the management information, produced by the management information production means is recorded in the storage means.

12. (new) The file device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the storage controller attaches information, indicating a preceding block and information indicating a size of data to be recorded in a block to the data recorded in the block and records same in the storage unit.

13. (new) The file device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the storage controller unit updates the management information so that, when a data-unrecorded block occurs among the blocks allocated by the block allocation unit when recording the file, the unrecorded block becomes an unused block.

14. (new) The file device as claimed in claim 11, wherein:

- the storage controller has storage sequence setting unit setting a storage sequence of data that makes up the file; and
- the data that makes up the file is allocated among blocks to be recorded by the block allocation unit based on the sequence set by the storage sequence setting unit and recorded to the allocated blocks.

15. (new) The file device as claimed in claim 11, having file readout reader, such that when information indicating the preceding block does not indicate the preceding block as a result of the block being accessed in sequence depending on the management information, the file being read out, and data being read out from the block, or when information indicating the size of the data recorded in the block is outside the actual block size range, the file readout reader halts readout of the file and updates the management information so that subsequent blocks become unused blocks.

16. (new) A file access method that divides and records a file among a plurality of blocks, comprising:

- allocating blocks to record the file;
- producing management information indicating blocks allocated in said allocating;
- recording the file; and
- recording the produced management information.

17. (new) The file access method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said recording the file further comprises attaching information indicating a preceding block and information indicating a size of data to be recorded in a block to each block that records the file, and recording same.

18. (new) The file access method as claimed in claim 16, further comprising updating the management information so that when an unrecorded block occurs, among the allocated blocks when recording the file, the unrecorded block becomes an unused block.

19. (new) The file access method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the allocating blocks that are to record data that makes up the file is based on a previously-set storage sequence of the data that makes up the file and records to the allocated blocks.

20. (new) The file access method as claimed in claim 17, further comprising performing a file readout such that when information indicating the preceding block does not indicate the preceding block, as a result of the block being accessed in sequence depending on the management information, the file being read out, and data being read out from the block, or when information indicating the size of the data recorded in the block is actually outside the block size range, the file readout halts readout of the file and updates the management information so that subsequent blocks become unused blocks.